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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/429,798	10/29/1999	NNOCHIRI N. EKWURIBE	4012-113DIV1	6336

7590 10/02/2003
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EXAMINER
BRUMBACK, BRENDA G

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1654	

DATE MAILED: 10/02/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/429,798

Applicant(s)

EKWURIBE ET AL.

Examiner

Maury Audet

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-63 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-63 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

I. Claims 1-22, 24-35, 37-45, 47-52, and 54-63 drawn to amphiphilic drug-oligomer conjugates of various formulas, classified in class 530, subclass 402.

Please note: Claims 16, 17, 24-35, and 54-61 are method claims that improperly depend from composition claims in Group 1. For purposes of restriction, these claims have been considered to be composition claims. Clarification and correction are required.

II. Claim 23, drawn to a method of activating a receptor comprising contacting the receptor with an amphiphilic drug-oligomer conjugate, classified in class 424, subclass 1.69.

III. Claim 36, drawn to a method for delivering a therapeutic compound across the blood brain barrier comprising administering an amphiphilic drug-oligomer conjugate, classified in class 424, subclass 1.69.

IV. Claim 46, drawn to a method for inducing analgesia in a subject comprising administering an amphiphilic drug-oligomer conjugate, classified in class 424, subclass 1.69.

V. Claim 53, drawn to a method for altering the binding affinity of a peptide to its receptor, subject comprising conjugating the peptide to an amphiphilic-oligomer classified in class 436, subclass 501, for example.

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The inventions of Groups I-V do not contain a distinguishable core structure that runs through the respective compounds claimed; therefore, an individual structure and/or sequence search is required for each individual compound. As part of the election of a single invention of any of Groups I-V for examination on the merits, Applicant is required to elect either

one specific therapeutic compound from those listed in claims 5-7, 38-39, or 62 and **one** specific oligomer formula from those listed in claims 15, 18, or 51 **-or-**

one specific amphiphilic oligomer-enkephalin conjugate from those listed in claims 20-22 or 52, for examination on the merits.

This requirement is not to be taken as an election of species, but rather as an election of a single invention, since each compound is assumed to be a patentably distinct invention, in the absence of evidence to the contrary.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Groups I and II-V are related as products and processes of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case the conjugates of Group I can be used in the materially different processes of diagnostic testing and affinity purification of antibodies.

The specific compounds in Groups I-V are not disclosed as capable of use together and have different modes of operation, different functions, and different effects.

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Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification or have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper. Further, search and examination of all of the separate compounds is not overlapping and would constitute a serious burden upon the examiner.


Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brenda Brumback whose telephone number is (703) 306-3220. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196. Papers related to this application may be submitted to Group 1600 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be marked "OFFICIAL" for entry into prosecution history or "DRAFT" for consideration by the examiner without entry. The Official FAX telephone number is (703) 872-9306. FAX machines will be available to receive transmissions 24 hours a day. In compliance with 1096 OG 30, the filing date accorded to each OFFICIAL fax transmission will be determined by the FAX machine's stamped date found on the last page of the transmission, unless that date is a Saturday, Sunday or Federal Holiday with the District of Columbia, in which case the OFFICIAL date of receipt will be the next business day.

BB

October 1, 2003


Brenda Brumback
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 1600